

REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed on May 21, 2003, claims 17 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite; claims 1, 5, 6, 9-15, 17-19, 24, 26, 30, 31 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Chuah; claims 2-4, 7, 8, 25, 27-28 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chuah; claims 16, 21-23, 29 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chuah in view of Belanger; and claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chuah in view of Egawa.

Claims 17 and 30 have been amended to overcome the § 112, second paragraph rejections. Newly added claims 35-37 are patentable over the cited art. The §§ 102 and 103 rejections are addressed below.

Rejections of Claims 1-23:

As amended, the method of independent claim 1 recites if the central authority reserves a time slot for one of the local stations, in response to the beginning of the time slot, transmitting data to the other local stations to prevent the other local stations from transmitting.

Independent claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of Chuah. Although Chuah discloses a scheduler 2230 that notifies both remotes and wired hosts of their times to transmit, Chuah neither teaches nor suggests the limitations of amended claim 1. In this manner, claim 1 requires transmitting data in response to the beginning of a reserved time slot to other local stations to prevent these other local stations from transmitting. Although a particular remote in Chuah may receive a denial of a request for a particular time slot, Chuah does not teach or suggest that the scheduler transmits data to any of the remotes in response to the beginning of a particular time slot. Therefore, for at least this reason, amended claim 1 overcomes the § 102 rejection.

Claims 2-23 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from an allowable claim.

Rejections of Claims 24-30:

As amended, the wireless communication system of claim 24 includes a central authority to if a time slot is reserved, in response to the beginning of the time slot, transmit data to other local stations to prevent these other local stations from transmitting.

As discussed above in connection with claim 1, Chuah neither teaches nor suggests transmitting data to local stations to prevent these stations from transmitting in response to the beginning of a particular time slot. Therefore, for at least this reason, Chuah fails to teach or even suggest the limitations of amended claim 24.

Claims 25-30 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from an allowable claim.

Rejections of Claims 31-34:

As amended, the article of claim 31 includes a machine-readable storage medium that stores instructions to if a time slot is reserved, in response to the beginning of the time slot, transmit data to other local stations to prevent these other local stations from transmitting.

Contrary to the limitations of amended claim 31, Chuah neither teaches nor suggests transmitting data to local stations in response to the beginning of a particular time slot to prevent these stations from transmitting. Therefore, for at least this reason, Chuah fails to teach or even suggest the limitations of amended claim 31.

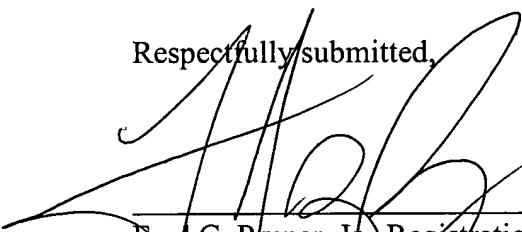
Claims 32-34 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from an allowable claim.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the §§ 102, 103 and 112 rejections and a favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance are requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (NTC.0002US).

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Respectfully submitted,


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